United Nations S/2000/309

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 April 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 11 April 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 10 April 2000 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the brutal aggression committed by United States and British aircraft against towns and villages in Iraq on 6 April 2000, when 14 civilians were killed and 19 others were wounded, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. On that day, such aircraft carried out 24 missions from Saudi Arabia and 24 from Kuwait with the support of an AWACS aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rokan Hama **Al-Anbuge**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the identical letters dated 11 April 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that, in the context of the ongoing wanton aggression against the people of Iraq, on 6 April 2000 United States and British aircraft committed another brutal crime in which 14 civilians were killed and 19 others were injured. The details of this atrocity are given hereunder.

From 0855 and 1455 hours on 6 April 2000, United States and British aircraft flew 24 armed sorties from Saudi territory and 24 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of two reconnaissance aircraft, an AWACS operating inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Qadisiyah, Maysan, Wasit and Najaf governorates and attacked civilian and services-related installations, killing innocent civilians.

As of 6 April 2000, the total number of sorties flown from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory by the United States and the United Kingdom since their major aggression of 17 December 1998 is thus 16,510.

The ongoing aggression of the United States and the United Kingdom against Iraq has come to constitute [a fixed policy for the achievement of their political objectives aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence] and territorial integrity. By the most elementary standards governing international intercourse, the declared policy of the leaders of the two countries in question constitutes flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and all the principles of international law and prevailing international conventions affirming that the use or threat of use of force against the integrity or independence of any State must be rejected.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for these actions.

Viewing the governments of the countries in question as bearing full international responsibility for these criminal acts and for their consequences and the damage caused by them, the Government of Iraq reserves in full its inalienable right, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and international conventions, to take the measures necessary to defend the inviolability and sovereignty of Iraq's territory and the security of its people as well as its right to seek compensation for all the losses it has sustained in human, material and moral terms owing to these same acts, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

(Signed) Tariq **Aziz**
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq